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FLOOR DEBATE

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the commission shall. The reason that we would want to do this is it will keep...it will keep these out of the district court. If the merit commission doesn't hear these grievances, what happens then is the employee has to hire an attorney and appeal that decision, or appeal to the district court to resolve the dispute. In addition to what I have outlined, the bill itself also takes away the prohibition from deputy sheriffs being involved in political campaigns, or running for political office, and it also removes a condition...a polygraph, or a lie detector, examination as a condition of employment. That is the bill in a nutshell. Senator Schimek does have some committee amendments, and that's pretty much all the bill does. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Schimek, you're recognized to open on the committee amendments to LB 222.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, thank you, Mr. President and members. The committee heard the bill on January 22 and advanced it with some...several kind of minor changes. The first change to the bill would amend Section 23-736 to require that no person serving in a classified service shall actively participate in any campaign conducted by any candidate for public office while on duty or while wearing a uniform, and in the original bill that section was just repealed, as I think you just heard. A second thing the amendment does is takes the original language of the bill allowing a deputy sheriff to grieve any other matter of employment dispute, we struck that and replaced it with language which allows a deputy sheriff to grieve a violation of a written departmental policy or procedure. Kind of narrows the scope a little bit. And the third thing the amendment does is requires the commission to issue this written order either affirming or denying the grievance after hearing it, and they have to do that within seven calendar days after the date of the hearing. So with that, Mr. President, I...that concludes my remarks and I would return my remaining time to the Chair.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schimek. You've heard the opening LB 222 by Senator Bourne, and the committee amendments to that bill by Senator Schimek. Open for discussion on the committee amendments. Senator Bourne.